

## **AMENDMENT IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-5 (canceled):

Claim 6 (previously amended):

The clamp of claim 9, wherein said finger is integral with said ring.

Claim 7 (previously amended):

The clamp of claim 9, wherein the side members of said link are parallel and lie on a common plane in space.

Claim 8 (original):

The clamp of claim 7, wherein said finger extends perpendicularly from said ring.

Claim 9 (previously amended):

A clamp for securing a section of rope comprising:

    a link, said link is formed of a single piece of material that is bent to form two side members, a cross member and an apex;

    a ring, said ring is formed of a single piece of material that is bent to form a first end, a second end, and two longitudinal side pieces, said ring is slidably engaged with said link;

    a finger; said finger extending from said ring in a direction towards said apex and terminating at an end; and

    wherein said link is formed from a single piece of wire and wherein said ring is formed from a single piece of wire.

Claim 10 (canceled):

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Claim 11 (previously amended):

The clamp of claim 14, wherein said side members are parallel and lie along a common plane so that said link is substantially flat.

Claim 12 (original):

The clamp of claim 11, wherein said link is of a single piece of wire bent to form the two side members, the cross member and further wherein, the ends of the single piece of wire are joined at a point form in the apex.

Claim 13 (canceled):

Claim 14 (previously presented):

A clamp for securing a rope having a section thereof formed into a loop comprising:  
a link having two side members connected at a first end by a cross member and attached at an opposite end at an apex;  
a ring slidably attached to said link, said ring having a first end and a second end joined together by two longitudinal side pieces; and  
a finger extending from one of the longitudinal side pieces of said ring towards the apex of said link, wherein said ring and said finger are integral and are formed from a single piece of wire bent to form the first end, the second end and the two longitudinal side pieces of said ring and said finger.

Claim 15 (previously presented):

The clamp of claim 14, wherein said finger extends in a direction towards said apex and terminates at an end.

Claim 16 (newly presented):

A clamp for securing a rope comprising:

    a link having two side members connected at a first end by a cross member and attached at an opposite end at an apex;

    a ring having a first end and a second end joined together by two longitudinal side pieces, said ring being slidably attached to said link such that the two side members of said link are inward of the first and second ends of said ring; and

    a finger extending from a first of the two longitudinal side pieces of said ring in a direction towards said apex of said link, and being positioned between said two side members of said link.

Claim 17 (newly presented):

The clamp of claim 16, wherein in said two side members of said link are parallel and lie in a common plane.

Claim 18 (newly presented):

The clamp of claim 16, wherein said finger extends from the first longitudinal side piece at a position intermediate the two longitudinal side pieces.

Claim 19 (newly presented):

The clamp of claim 16, wherein said cross member being arcuately shaped.